

Application No.: 10/672,672

Docket No.: TOW-044RCE

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**Please amend claim 1 as follows.**

1. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell comprising:
an electrolyte electrode assembly including a pair of electrodes and an electrolyte interposed between said electrodes;
separators for sandwiching said electrolyte electrode assembly, a reactant gas supply passage and a reactant gas discharge passage extending through said separators in a stacking direction, at least one of said separators having a reactant gas flow field connected between said reactant gas supply passage and said reactant gas discharge passage for supplying a reactant gas to one of said pair of electrodes;
a seal member provided around said one of said pair of electrodes for sealing said reactant gas flow field, said reactant gas supply passage, and said reactant gas discharge passage;
and
a filling seal partially provided at an outer region of said one of said pair of electrodes, said filling seal being provided tightly in contact with at least an outer end surface of said one of said pair of electrodes for preventing leakage of said reactant gas,
wherein the seal member and the filling seal contact the electrolyte.

2. (Original) A fuel cell according to claim 1, wherein said filling seal is provided near said reactant gas supply passage and near said reactant gas discharge passage.

3. (Original) A fuel cell according to claim 1, wherein said reactant gas flow field includes at least one U-Turn region, and said filling seal is provided near said U-Turn region for preventing leakage of said reactant gas from said U-Turn region.

4. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell according to claim 1, wherein a seal groove is

Application No.: 10/672,672

Docket No.: TOW-044RCE

formed around said reactant gas flow field, said reactant gas supply passage, and said reactant gas discharge passage;

said seal member is provided in said seal groove; and

said filling seal is provided in a part of a clearance between said seal member and said outer end surface of said one of said pair of electrodes.

5. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said separators has a coolant flow field for supplying a coolant to cool said one of said pair of electrodes;

an additional filling seal is provided in a part of a clearance between said coolant flow field and said seal member for preventing leakage of said coolant into said clearance.

6. (Original) A fuel cell according to claim 5, wherein a coolant supply passage and a coolant discharge passage extend through said separators in said stacking direction; and

said additional filling seal is provided near said coolant supply passage, and near said coolant discharge passage.

7. (Original) A fuel cell according to claim 5, wherein said coolant flow field includes at least one U-Turn region, and said additional filling seal is provided near said U-Turn region for preventing leakage of said reactant gas from said U-Turn region.

8. (Original) A fuel cell according to claim 6, wherein a seal groove is formed around said coolant flow field, said coolant supply passage, and said coolant discharge passage, and said seal member is provided in said seal groove.